

Coins

Good buys for numismatic gift giving

By Roger Boye

THE WIFE of an Oak Lawn coin collector decided to buy her husband several Liberty Head nickels for a gift last Christmas.

Altho the woman knew little about numismatics, she was assured by the Chicago coin dealer that the coins would make a nice gift and her husband "wouldn't be disappointed."

However, her husband already had most of those nickels in his collection. And he felt that his wife had been sold coins which had been improperly graded and overpriced. But since the sale was final, he couldn't return the nickels.

THIS ILLUSTRATES the problem a noncollector has trying to buy a numismatic Christmas gift for a coin collecting friend. Without numismatic knowledge, it's difficult to determine a good coin buy.

But don't despair. Here are several gift ideas for your coin collecting friends:

- A gift certificate from your friend's favorite coin store. Most collectors would appreciate much more receiving a gift certificate—and thus be able to select

their own coins—than to receive coins as a gift.

- Subscription to a coin newspaper or periodical. Such publications are invaluable to collectors. But a word of warning: Some numismatists avoid receiving such publications at home and would rather purchase them on the newsstand or in a coin store. They don't wish to publicize the fact they collect coins even having a coin periodical mailed home. Thus, it would be best to check whether your collector friend is so sensitive.

- Numismatic books. Hundreds of books are published on numismatics for the beginning thru the advanced collector. Most make wonderful gifts. Check coin stores and book stores.

- Numismatic accessories. Such paraphernalia as coin folders, coin tubes, and magnifying glasses are essential to the coin hobbyist. Check your friend's want list. Then visit a coin store.

- Medals. Medals are minted usually by private companies to commemorate some person, place, or event. Altho many nearly are the same shape and size

of coins, medals are not legal tender.

Some coin collectors also collect medals which often are widely advertised. The design and engraving work on some medals is especially brilliant. Popular this year are medals commemorating the bicentennial, such as the

medal of Carpenters' Hall and the First Continental Congress struck by the Medallie Art Co. of Danbury, Conn.

Many coin collectors, however, do not collect medals. So before purchasing medals as a gift, determine whether your coin collecting friend considers them legitimate.



First Continental Congress medal